

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELFAS 00328 161501Z

21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 OMB-01 /079 W

----- 014279

R 161431Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1427

INFO AMEMSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 328

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: FORD TO EXPAND BELFAST PLANT

REF: BELFAST 322

1. JOHN MC DOUGALL, CHAIRMAN FORD OF EUROPE INC. ANNOUNCED PLANS SEPTEMBER 15 TO BEGIN EXPANSION OF BELFAST PLANT WITH INVESTMENT 10 MILLION POUNDS STERLING. MUCH OF THIS INVESTMENT WILL BE GRANT FUNDS FROM HMG (AIRGRAM FOLLOWS). FACTORY WILL BE EXPANDED BY 45,000 SQUARE FEET AND EQUIPMENT SCHEDULED FOR INSTALLATION JUNE 1977. PLANT PRODUCING CARBUERTORS AND DISTRIBUTORS NOW EMPLOYS 1250 PEOPLE AND EXPANSION WILL MEAN 400 MORE MALE JOBS IN 1978 IN FINAGHY AN INTERFACE AREA SOUTH WEST BELFAST OF HIGH (ROMAN CATHOLIC) UNEMPLOYMENT.

2. NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE AND MEDIA HAVE EMPHASIZED FORD IS LATEST OF AMERICAN INTERESTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND TO ANNOUNCE EXPANSION IN OTHERWISE GLOOMY ECONOMIC SITUATION. THE OTHERS ARE GOODYEAR, HUGHES TOOL AND BERKSHIRE MILLS. PROVISIONAL IRA WITH ITS "ECONOMIC WARAFER" STRATEGY WILL BE UNCLASSIFIED

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IN DILEMMA WHETHER TO CONTINUE TO IGNORE SUCCESS OF AMERICAN

BUSINESS HERE OR TO ACT VIOLENTLY TO DISCOURAGE AMERICAN
INVESTMENT AND SO RISK FURTHER ALIENATION OF AMERICAN CONTRIBUTORS
AND LOCAL JOB-SEEKERS.
SPICER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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From: BELFAST
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: FORD TO EXPAND BELFAST PLANT
TAGS: EIND, PINT, UK, EI, FORD MOTOR CO, (MCDougall, John)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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